

- (a) connecting a first participant to a database display;
- (b) connecting a second participant to the database display; and
- (c) displaying a price for the quantity of electrical energy by:
  - (i) establishing a database of current hour offers; and
  - (ii) establishing a database of next hour offers.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12 further comprises displaying the next hour offers during the current hour.

14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13 further comprises stopping the consummation of next hour transactions at a predetermined time during the current hour.

4 16. (Amended) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
- (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
- (c) transmitting to the database an offer to sell by a first participant based upon the market sale price;
- (d) receiving the offer to sell into the database;
- (e) accepting the offer to sell into the database;
- (f) displaying the offer to sell to said plurality, wherein said offer to sell is comprised of a quantity of units of electrical energy and a unit price, wherein the unit price displayed to each participant of the plurality is adjusted to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of

electrical energy from the first participant to each participant of the plurality, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized by a method comprised of:

- (i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises –
  - (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity,
  - (b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants, and
- (ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions; and
- (g) facilitating an acceptance and purchase of the offer to sell by a second participant.

17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

- (h) informing the first participant and the second participant of a consummation of the trade transaction.

18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

- (i) curtailing the trade transaction by one of the transaction participants.

21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 16, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with the offer to sell.

22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 16, wherein step (f) further comprises computing and displaying a performance index associated with the trade transaction.

23. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22, wherein computing the performance index associated with the trade transaction is based upon an individual performance index associated with the first participant, the second participant, or a wheeler.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 23, wherein the individual performance index is based upon an historical transaction data.

25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 16, wherein step (g) further comprises invoicing the trade transaction and clearing a payment obligation for the trade transaction through an electronic settlement process.

12 ~~28~~ 28. (Amended) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- M<sup>2</sup>
- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
  - (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
  - (c) transmitting to the database an offer to buy by a first participant based upon the market sale price;
  - (d) receiving the offer to buy into the database;
  - (e) accepting the offer to buy into the database;
  - (f) displaying the offer to buy to said plurality, wherein said offer to buy is comprised of a quantity of units of electrical energy and a unit price, wherein the unit price displayed to each participant of the plurality is adjusted to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of

electrical energy from the first participant to each participant of the plurality, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized by a method comprised of:

- Bk*
- (i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises –
    - (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity,
    - (b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants, and
  - (ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions; and
  - (g) facilitating an acceptance of the offer to buy and a promise to deliver by a second participant.
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29. (Unchanged) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

- (h) informing the first participant and the second participant of a consummation of the trade transaction.

30. (Unchanged) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

- (i) curtailing the trade transaction by one of the transaction participants.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 28, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with the offer to sell.

34. (Unchanged) The method of claim 28, wherein step (f) further comprises computing and displaying a performance index associated with the trade transaction.

35. (Unchanged) The method of claim 28, wherein computing the performance index associated with the trade transaction is based upon an individual performance index associated with the first participant, the second participant, or a wheeler.

36. (Unchanged) The method of claim 35, wherein the individual performance index is based upon an historical transaction data.

37. (Unchanged) The method of claim 28, wherein step (g) further comprises invoicing the trade transaction and clearing a payment obligation for the trade transaction through an electronic settlement process.

~~2040~~ (Amended) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- B3
- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
  - (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
  - (c) receiving an offer to sell based upon the market sale price into the database;
  - (d) receiving an offer to buy based upon the market sale price into the database;
  - (e) accepting said offers into the database;
  - (f) displaying said offers to said plurality, wherein each of said offers is comprised of a quantity of units of electrical energy and a unit price, wherein the unit price displayed to each participant of the plurality is

adjusted to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy from the one participant to each participant of the plurality, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized by a method comprised of:

- B3*
- (i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises –
    - (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity,
    - (b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants, and
  - (ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions; and

(g) facilitating a trade transaction for units of electrical energy.

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41. (Unchanged) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

- (h) informing a first transaction participant and a second transaction participant to the trade transaction of a consummation of the trade transaction.

42. (Unchanged) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

- (i) curtailing the trade transaction by one of the transaction participants.

*B4*

~~21~~ 43. (Amended) The method of claim ~~40~~ 42, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with each of the offers.

46. (Unchanged) The method of claim 40, wherein step (f) further comprises computing and displaying a performance index associated with the trade transaction.

47. (Unchanged) The method of claim 40, wherein computing the performance index associated with the trade transaction is based upon an individual performance index associated with the first participant, the second participant, or a wheeler.

48. (Unchanged) The method of claim 47, wherein the individual performance index is based upon an historical transaction data.

49. (Unchanged) The method of claim 40, wherein step (g) further comprises invoicing the trade transaction and clearing a payment obligation for the trade transaction through an electronic settlement process.

Please add the claims as follows:

~~28~~ 52. (New) A method of selling a quantity of electric energy between at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- B5
- (a) connecting a first participant to a database display;
  - (b) connecting a second participant to the database display; and
  - (c) displaying a price for the quantity of electrical energy by:
    - (i) establishing a database of a current time period offers; and
    - (ii) establishing a database of a next time period offers.

~~29~~ 53. (New) The method of claim ~~52~~ further comprises displaying the next time period offers during the current time period.